

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 SAS-02 MCT-02
/122 W

-----074900 230234Z /73

R 221534Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8025
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 05473

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, ENRG, GE, US
SUBJECT: CONVENTION ON PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR
MATERIALS

REF: STATE 203582

1. DCM MADE PRESENTATION ALONG LINES OF REFTTEL TO
AMBASSADOR THUN OF GDR MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
SECTION, AUGUST 21. THUN'S RESPONSE WAS POSITIVE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO SCOPE OF CONVENTION, THUN SAID IT
WAS THE GDR'S PREFERENCE TO HAVE A CONVENTION THAT
WOULD COVER DOMESTIC AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT
ASPECTS OF PHYSICAL PROTECTION FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS.
AT THE SAME TIME, CONSIDERING THE OPPOSITION WHICH
THEY UNDERSTAND EXISTS ON THE PART OF SOME STATES
TO A BROAD CONVENTION, THE GDR BELIEVES IT IS BETTER
TO WORK FOR A LIMITED CONVENTION, COVERING
ONLY INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION ASPECTS, AT AN EARLY
STAGE AND ONE THAT WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF AS LARGE
A NUMBER OF STATES AS POSSIBLE. THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE
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WOULD BE A BROAD CONVENTION, WHICH WOULD TAKE A LONG
TIME, AND WOULD PROBABLY ONLY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF A
VERY SMALL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS. THIS, IN THUN'S
VIEW, WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION.
THEREFORE, THE GDR'S PREFERENCE WAS TO COME TO AN EARLY
AGREEMENT, LIMITED IN SCOPE, SUPPORTED BY AS MANY
GOVERNMENTS AS POSSIBLE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF MILITARY PURPOSES OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL, THUN WAS NONCIMMITTAL, NOTING ONLY THAT THEIR POSITION WOULD DEPEND ON THE KIND OF PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE THAT MIGHT BE PROPOSED.

4. IN GENERAL, THUN SAID, BECAUSE OF SUCH ISSUES AS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM THEY WOULD PREFER TO HAVE AS BROAD A CONVENTION AS POSSIBLE. SINCE THIS WAS NOT LIKELY, AT LEAST THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT ASPECTS SHOULD BE REGULATED SO THAT SOME BINDING COMMITMENTS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS.

5. ON A MINOR POINT, THUN SAID THE GDR WAS NOT CERTAIN WHO WOULD CHAIR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. IT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FORMER CHAIRMAN, THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE PHILLIPPINES, HAD LEFT QUITE SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT HANDING OVER HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO ANYONE ELSE. IT WAS THE GDR'S VIEW THAT THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR'S REPLACEMENT SHOULD NOT ALSO TAKE OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MEETING. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, PLANNING MEETINGS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, NUCLEAR SAFETY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN05473
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780344-0112
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780835/aaaabcsa.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cdc1bf5d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 203582
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1653258
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVENTION ON PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, ENRG, GC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cdc1bf5d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014